



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/072,888	02/12/2002	Akira Ogasawara	111937	3559

25944 7590 07/08/2003

OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC  
P.O. BOX 19928  
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22320

EXAMINER

SMITH, ARTHUR A

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2851

DATE MAILED: 07/08/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

# Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/072,888

Applicant(s)

OGASAWARA, AKIRA

Examiner

Arthur A Smith

Art Unit

2851

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 11 April 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3-6,8,11-13,15,18-20,22,25-27,29,32 and 33 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.

- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3-6,8,11-13,15,18-20,22,25-27,29,32 and 33 is/are rejected.

- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.

- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 23 April 2002 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.  
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:  
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).  
\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).  
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

## Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) \_\_\_\_\_ 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

### DETAILED ACTION

Applicant's arguments filed 4/11/03 (paper #9) have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

#### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1, 3-6, 8, 11-13, 15, 18-20, 22, 25-27, 29, 32 and 33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shaper et al. (USPAPN 2002/0009296 A1) in view of Walley et al. (USPN 5500639).

In reference to claim 1, Shaper et al. discloses a photographing system in which a flash device is controlled by a signal that is transmitted from a camera to the flash device through a communication medium, paragraph 2, wherein: at least one of the camera and the flash device is provided with a unique identification code for identification of the camera or the flash device, paragraph 22. Shaper et al. does not disclose that the flash device comprises a collating section for collating a unique identification code that is transmitted from the camera, with a unique identification code originally provided in the flash device. Instead Shaper et al. discloses that the unique identification code is manually set by dip switches to match the identification code provided in the camera, paragraph 33. Walley et al. discloses a satellite device

Art Unit: 2851

(equivalent to flash device) with a collating section for collating a unique identification code that is transmitted from a master device (equivalent to camera), col. 4 lines 31-50. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention utilize the automatic identification collating system of Walley et al. into the camera system of Shaper et al. This would be done to automate the process and thereby making the operation of the system simpler from a user's standpoint. Neither reference discloses specifically that the unique identification code is transmitted through a physical connection between the camera and the flash device. Such a means of transmitting the identification would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made. The use of connector pins or wires to transmit the identification numbers is equivalent to the transmission through radio waves. It is a matter of design choice to choose one method over another.

In reference to claim 3, Shaper et al. discloses wherein the flash device is provided with the unique identification code, paragraph 22; the camera has, in advance, the unique identification code of the flash device transmitted between the camera and the flash device and in controlling the flash device the camera sends the unique identification code of the flash device and the collating section collates the unique identification code of the flash device that is transmitted from the camera through the physical connection via the lead wire or the contact points, with the unique identification code of the flash device provided in the flash device, paragraphs 18 and 27. Shaper et al. does not disclose that the flash device comprises a collating section for collating a unique identification code that is transmitted from the camera, with a unique

Art Unit: 2851

identification code originally provided in the flash device. Instead Shaper et al. discloses that the unique identification code is manually set by dip switches to match the identification code provided in the camera, paragraph 33. Walley et al. discloses a satellite device (equivalent to flash device) with a collating section for collating a unique identification code that is transmitted from a master device (equivalent to camera), col. 4 lines 31-50. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention utilize the automatic identification collating system of Walley et al. into the camera system of Shaper et al. This would be done to automate the process and thereby making the operation of the system simpler from a user's standpoint. Neither reference discloses specifically that the unique identification code is transmitted through a physical connection between the camera and the flash device. Such a means of transmitting the identification would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made. The use of connector pins or wires to transmit the identification numbers is equivalent to the transmission through radio waves. It is a matter of design choice to choose one method over another.

In reference to claim 4, Shaper et al. discloses wherein the camera stores unique identification codes of a plurality of flash devices which are transmitted from the plurality of flash devices, paragraph 26.

In reference to claim 5, Shaper et al. discloses wherein number of the flash devices is plural, and each of the plurality of flash devices independently stores the unique identification code of the camera, paragraphs 21 and 27.

In reference to claim 6, Shaper et al. discloses a photographic information transmission system in which a signal relating to photographing is transmitted from a first hand-held terminal to a second hand-held terminal by transmission to control a second hand-held terminal, paragraph 2, wherein: at least one of the first hand-held terminal and the second hand-held terminal is provided with a unique identification code for identification of the first hand-held terminal or the second hand-held terminal, paragraph 22; Shaper et al. does not disclose that the second hand-held terminal comprises a collating section for collating a unique identification code that is transmitted from the first hand-held terminal, with a unique identification code originally provided in the second hand-held terminal. Instead Shaper et al. discloses that the unique identification code is manually set by dip switches to match the identification code provided in the first hand-held terminal, paragraph 33. Walley et al. discloses a satellite device (equivalent to flash device) with a collating section for collating a unique identification code that is transmitted from a master device (equivalent to camera), col. 4 lines 31-50. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention utilize the automatic identification collating system of Walley et al. into the camera system of Shaper et al. This would be done to automate the process and thereby making the operation of the system simpler from a user's standpoint. Neither reference discloses specifically that the unique identification code is transmitted through a physical connection between the first and second hand held terminals. Such a means of transmitting the identification would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made. The use of connector pins or wires to transmit the

identification numbers is equivalent to the transmission through radio waves. It is a matter of design choice to choose one method over another.

In reference to claim 8, Shaper et al. discloses wherein the second hand-held terminal is provided with the unique identification code, paragraph 22; and in controlling the second hand-held terminal the first hand-held terminal sends the unique identification code of the second hand-held terminal to the second hand held terminal; and the collating section collates the unique identification code of the second hand held terminal that is transmitted from the first hand-held terminal, with the unique identification code of the second hand-held terminal provided in the second hand-held terminal, paragraphs 18 and 27. Shaper et al. does not disclose that the second hand-held terminal comprises a collating section for collating a unique identification code that is transmitted from the first hand-held terminal, with a unique identification code originally provided in the second hand-held terminal. Instead Shaper et al. discloses that the unique identification code is manually set by dip switches to match the identification code provided in the first hand-held terminal, paragraph 33. Walley et al. discloses a satellite device (equivalent to flash device) with a collating section for collating a unique identification code that is transmitted from a master device (equivalent to camera), col. 4 lines 31-50. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention utilize the automatic identification collating system of Walley et al. into the camera system of Shaper et al. This would be done to automate the process and thereby making the operation of the system simpler from a user's standpoint. Neither reference discloses specifically that the unique

Art Unit: 2851

identification code is transmitted through a physical connection between the first and second hand held terminals. Such a means of transmitting the identification would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made. The use of connector pins or wires to transmit the identification numbers is equivalent to the transmission through radio waves. It is a matter of design choice to choose one method over another.

In reference to claim 11, Shaper et al. discloses wherein the first hand-held terminal stores unique identification codes of a plurality of second hand-held terminals which are transmitted from the plurality of flash devices, paragraph 26.

In reference to claim 12, Shaper et al. discloses wherein number of the second hand-held terminals is plural, and each of the plurality of second hand-held terminals independently stores the unique identification code of the first hand-held terminal, paragraphs 21 and 27.

In reference to claims 13, 15, 18 and 19, Shaper et al. discloses wherein the first hand-held terminal is a first hand-held terminal, ref. 200, and the second hand-held terminal is a flash, ref. 300, paragraph 20.

In reference to claims 20, 22, 25 and 26, Shaper et al. nor Walley et al. do not specifically disclose that the second hand-held terminal is a cellular phone. However, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to realize that a cellular phone could be considered a photographic device. Recently cellular phones have begun to incorporate first hand-held terminals (cameras) to transmit visual data along



Art Unit: 2851

with the standard audio data. Hence, the control technique of Sharper et al. and Walley et al. would be applicable to a cellular phone.

In reference to claims 27, 29, 32 and 33 Shaper et al. discloses wherein the first hand-held terminal is a camera and the second hand-held terminal is also a camera, paragraph 2.

### ***Response to Arguments***

Applicant's arguments, see paper #9, filed 4/11/03, with respect to the 102 rejections of claims 1-8, 11-15, 18, 19, 27-29, 32 and 33 under Shaper et al. have been fully considered and are persuasive. Therefore, the rejection has been withdrawn. However, upon further consideration, a new 103 rejection is made in view of the Shaper et al. and Walley et al. reference.

The Examiner is withdrawing the previous indication that the limitation of "the transfer of the unique identification code of the flash device being transmitted in advance through the physical connection of the camera and the flash device" makes the claims allowable over the prior art. Upon further consideration such a modification to a system that transfers the unique identification code via a wireless system would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art. The Applicants disclosure, pages 1 and 2, discusses the migration in the art from wired flash system to wireless system which communicated through flash pulses. Hence the teachings of Shaper et al. and Walley et al. of transferring identification codes through radio waves are equivalent to transferring those codes through physical connections.

Art Unit: 2851

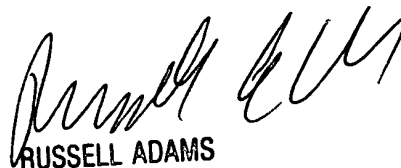
**Conclusion**

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Arthur A Smith whose telephone number is (703) 605 1228. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Thursday from 8:00 AM to 5:30 PM. The examiner can also be reached on alternate Fridays during the same hours.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Russ Adams can be reached on (703) 308 2847. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 872 9318 for regular communications and (703) 872 9319 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308 0956.

AAS  
June 27, 2003

  
RUSSELL ADAMS  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800